

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (New) An image communication apparatus, comprising:

an email receiving unit that receives an email;

an analyzing unit that analyzes the email received by the email receiving unit;

a determining unit that determines whether facsimile-forwarding is instructed by the email analyzed by the analyzing unit;

a converting unit that converts the email into facsimile-forwarding data if the determining unit determines that the facsimile-forwarding is instructed;

a setting unit that sets an upper limit for facsimile-forwarding the email; and

a forwarding control unit that conducts facsimile-forwarding of the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit to a facsimile-forwarding destination specified by the facsimile-forwarding instruction when the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit does not exceed the upper limit set by the setting unit.

14. (New) The image communication apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

a forward stopping control unit that stops facsimile-forwarding of the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit when the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit exceeds the upper limit; and

a reporting unit that sends a report of facsimile-forwarding failure by an email to a sender of the email when the facsimile-forwarding of the facsimile-forwarding data was stopped by the forward stopping control unit.

15. (New) The image communication apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

a splitting unit that splits the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit into a plurality of the facsimile-forwarding data when the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit exceeds the upper limit; and

a split forwarding unit that forwards the plurality of the facsimile-forwarding data split by the splitting unit to the facsimile-forwarding destination one after another.

16. (New) The image communication apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

a specifying unit that specifies forwarding time for the facsimile-forwarding data when the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit exceeds the upper limit set by the setting unit; and

a time-specified forwarding control unit that conducts facsimile-forwarding of the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit to the facsimile-forwarding destination after the facsimile-forwarding has been suspended until the forwarding time specified by the specifying unit when the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit exceeds the upper limit.

17. (New) The image communication apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the setting unit sets the upper limit based on a data size of the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit.

18. (New) The image communication apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the setting unit sets the upper limit based on a number of pages of the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit.

19. (New) An image communication apparatus comprising:

an email receiving unit that receives an email;

an analyzing unit that analyzes the email received by the email receiving unit;

a registering unit that registers senders whose emails are permitted to be facsimile-forwarded and facsimile-forwarding destinations corresponding to the senders;

a determining unit that determines whether a sender of the email analyzed by the analyzing unit is registered by the registering unit;

a converting unit that converts the email into facsimile-forwarding data when the sender of the email is registered by the registering unit;

a setting unit that sets an upper limit for conducting facsimile-forwarding of an email; and

a forwarding control unit that conducts facsimile-forwarding of the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit to a facsimile-forwarding destination corresponding to the senders registered by the registering unit when the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit does not exceed the upper limit set by the setting unit.

20. (New) The image communication apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a forward stopping control unit that stops the facsimile-forwarding of the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit when the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit exceeds the upper limit; and

a reporting unit that sends a report of facsimile-forwarding failure by an e-mail to the sender of the email when the facsimile-forwarding of the facsimile-forwarding data was stopped by the forward stopping control unit.

21. (New) The image communication apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a splitting unit that splits the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit into a plurality of the facsimile-forwarding data when the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit exceeds the upper limit; and

a split forwarding unit that forwards the plurality of the facsimile-forwarding data split by the splitting unit to the facsimile-forwarding destination one after another.

22. (New) The image communication apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a specifying unit that specified forwarding time for the facsimile-forwarding data when the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit exceeds the upper limit set by the setting unit; and

a time-specified forwarding control unit that conducts the facsimile-forwarding of the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit to the facsimile-forwarding destination after the facsimile-forwarding has been suspended until the forwarding time specified by the specifying unit when the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit exceeds the upper limit.

23. (New) The image communication apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the setting unit sets the upper limit based on a data size of the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit.

24. (New) The image communication apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the setting unit sets the upper limit based on a number of pages of the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit.

25. (New) An image communication apparatus comprising:

an email receiving unit that receives an email;

an analyzing unit that analyzes the email received by the email receiving unit;

a registering unit that registers senders whose emails are permitted to be facsimile-forwarding and facsimile-forwarding destinations corresponding to the senders;

a first determining unit that determines whether facsimile-forwarding is instructed by the email analyzed by the analyzing unit;

a second determining unit that determines whether a sender of the email analyzed by the analyzing unit is registered by the registering unit;

a converting unit that converts the email into facsimile-forwarding data when the first determining unit determines that the facsimile-forwarding is instructed or when the second determining unit determines that the sender of the email is registered by the registering unit;

a setting unit that sets an upper limit for facsimile-forwarding email;

a selection unit that selects a facsimile-forwarding destination specified by the facsimile-forwarding instruction when the first determining unit determines that the facsimile-forwarding is instructed and selects a facsimile-forwarding destination corresponding to the senders registered by the registering unit when the second determining unit determines that the sender of the email is within the senders registered by the registering unit; and

a forwarding control unit that conducts facsimile-forwarding of the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit to a facsimile-forwarding destination selected by the selection unit when the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit does not exceed the upper limit set by the setting unit.

26. (New) The image communication apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising:

a third determining unit that determines whether or not the facsimile-forwarding by the forwarding control unit was successful;

a fourth determining unit that determines whether the facsimile-forwarding destination selected by the selection unit is either the destination specified by the facsimile-forwarding instruction or the destination corresponding to the senders registered by the registering unit; and

a reporting unit that deletes the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit and sends a report of facsimile-forwarding failure by an email to the sender of the email when the third determining unit determines that the facsimile-forwarding was not successful and the fourth determining unit determines that the facsimile-forwarding destination selected by the selection unit is specified by the facsimile-forwarding instruction, or the reporting unit saves the facsimile-forwarding data converted by the converting unit and sends a report reporting that the facsimile-forwarding data was saved by an email to the sender of the email.